

CLAIMS

1. A method of retrieving candidate access router capability discovery information (CARD information) in a user terminal present a multi access system, which comprises several wireless networks each with a respective access technology and each comprising access routers each with associated access points, the access routers exchanging CARD information by using the CARD protocol on the IP control plane, **characterized by** translating CARD protocol information into layer 2 information messages and transmitting the translated CARD protocol information of each wireless network on at least a layer 2 wireless service to the user terminal.
2. A method in accordance with claim 1, **characterized by** broadcasting the translated CARD protocol information in each wireless network.
3. A method in accordance with claim 1 **characterized by** transmitting the translated CARD protocol information from the current access router to which the user terminal currently is connected.
4. A method in accordance with claim 3, **characterized by** transmitting said card information only when there is a candidate access router that offers capabilities that suits the needs of the user terminal better than does those offered by the current access router.
5. A method of retrieving candidate access router capability discovery information (CARD information) in a user terminal present a multi access system, which comprises several wireless networks each with a respective access technology and each comprising access routers each with associated access points, the access routers exchanging CARD information by using the CARD protocol on the IP control plane, **characterized by** the following steps performed at the user terminal:
 - first listening to broadcasted CARD protocol information which has been translated into layer 2 information, said listening being performed in each wireless network,
 - next selecting the wireless network that has offers the capabilities that best meet the requirements of the user terminal,
 - connecting the user terminal to an access router of the selected wireless

network by establishing a wireless connection to said access router which then becomes the current access router, and

-finally stop listening for broadcasted translated CARD layer 2 information and instead listening to translated CARD layer 2 information transmitted from the current access router on the established wireless connection.

6. A method in accordance with claim any of claims 1-5, wherein the user terminal is a dual stack UMTS/WLAN terminal connected to an access router of an UMTS network **characterized by** expanding the UMTS signalling protocol with CARD protocol information and inserting in said protocol extensions information that the current access router has gathered from neighbouring access routers by using the CARD protocol.
7. A radio access router of a wireless network, provided with protocol and interface means (15, 22, 23) for exchanging information on capabilities of neighbouring access routers belonging to the same or to one or more different wireless networks using the CARD protocol on the IP control plane, said latter access routers being candidates for access of a user terminal in a multi access environment, **characterized by** a translator (16) for translating the CARD protocol information on the IP lane into corresponding layer 2 information.
8. A radio access router in accordance with claim 7 **characterized by** means (27) for evaluating the CARD functionalities offered by candidate access routers with the CARD functionalities offered by the access router to which the terminal currently is connected and for initiating transmission of layer 2 translated CARD information only in case said evaluation reveals that there is a candidate access router with better CARD functionalities than those of the current access router, in which case said means is adapted to send the corresponding CARD information.
9. A terminal lacking IP control plane for use in a multi access environment comprising access networks to which access routers in accordance with claim 7 are connected, said terminal comprising conventional means for transmission and reception **characterized by** means (21) for understanding

protocol extensions that relate to translated CARD information transmitted on layer 2.